

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016450

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, JA

SUBJECT: SECURITY CONSULTATIONS

REF: TOKYO 603

FOR SHOESMITH FROM SHERMAN

1. WE FULLY SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO REVITALIZE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE FORUMS AND RECOGNIZE THAT DESPITE LACK OF PRESSING ISSUES WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW TOO GREAT A PERIOD TO LASPE BEFORE HOLDING SSC AND/OR SCC SESSIONS.

2. DURING YAMASHITA'S VISIT HERE HE RENEWED QUESTION OF HOLDING SOME SUCH MEETING THIS SPRING. WE REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT A SSC MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD USE IT FOR A FRANK AND INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND NOT SIMPLY TO RATIFY ANOTHER BASE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM. I SAID THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THE POSITION TO PRESENT SOME VIEWS ON US SECURITY PLANNING FOR ASIA AND ITS LIKELY EFFECT ON OUR BASE STRUCTURE IN JAPAN. AT MOMENT, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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DOD IS STILL IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING PLANS, AND IT WILL

PROBABLY NOT BE UNTIL LATE SPRING THAT WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO TALK IN ANY DETAIL ON THIS SUBJECT. I SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SUCH MUTUAL PROBLEMS AS LABOR COST SHARING, REENTRY RIGHTS, AND PERHAPS COMPLEMENTARITY. YAMASHITA SAID HE SHARED DESIRE TO INCREASE INFORMALITY OF SSC MEETINGS AND AGREED THAT SUCH MEETINGS NEED NOT ALWAYS BE TIED TO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF BASE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMS. HE NOTED HOWEVER GOJ WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AT LEAST AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO RELOCATION OF IE SHIMA RANGE. IN TERMS OF DATES HE SUGGESTED EITHER APRIL DURING LOCAL ELECTIONS OR LATE MAY AFTER CLOSE OF DIET SESSION. HE INDICATED THAT GOJ WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HOLD SCC MEETING SHORTLY AFTER SSC, PRESUMABLY TO PROVIDE FORUM FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON IE SHIMA AND PERHAPS TO SURFACE "YAMANAKA MEMO" THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.

3. WE SUGGESTED TO YAMASHITA THAT HE WORK WITH EMBASSY TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE AGENDA ON INFORMAL BASIS. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF POSSIBLE TIMING HOPEFULLY WITHIN A MONTH OR SO, AND ARE FAIRLY SURE THAT LATE MAY DATE WOULD PRESENT NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. WE OF COURSE CAN MAKE NO COMMITMENTS CONCERNING IE SHIMA AND WOULD HOPE THAT OUR PLANS FOR SSC NOT BE TIED TO PROGRESS (OR LACK THEREOF) ON THAT ISSUE. I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO DISCOURAGE IDEA OF FOLLOW ON SC MEETING FOR WHICH I SEE NO SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSE. MEANWHILE WE WILL WORK WITH DOD ON DEVELOPING A SUBSTANTIVE AND MEANINGFUL PRESENTATION ON THE OUTLOOK OF OUR FORCE LEVELS IN ASIA. AS THE AGENDA DEVELOPS WE CAN CONSIDER APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION.

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ABOVE WITH DOD WHICH CONCURS AND SUGGESTS THAT YOU DISCUSS OUR THINKING WITH USFJ. INGERSOLL

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